

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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TAGS: ECIN, SELA, VE, UY

SUBJ: SELA: ACTION COMMITTEE ON DAIRY, MEAT AND MEAT

BY-PRODUCTS

REF: STATE 280495

1. THE MONTEVIDEO SELA ACTION COMMITTEE ON DAIRY, MEAT AND MEAT BY-PRODUCTS WAS FORMED AT A MEETING AT THE URUGUAYAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHING IN EARLY MARCH. THE COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS: URUGUAYAN DELEGATES: COLONEL A. BAYSSE (CHAIRMAN); DANIEL FAGGI, DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE; ENRIQUE ELENA, DIRECTOR OF THE MARKETING UNIT OF THE NATIONAL MEAT INSTITUTE; DR. JORGE PEREZ OTERMIN, COMMERCIAL/LEGAL ADVISOR OF THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS; HECTOR CARLEVARO TORRES, ADVISOR OF THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE; CARLOS AORREA, DELEGATE OF THE ANIMAL INDUSTRY DIRECTORATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHING; GRACIELA REYES DE PRIETO, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS; PLUS FEDERICO GARCIA BRUM; RICARDO MIGLIARINA, WASHINGTON FERNANDEZ, ANIBAL CASSARINO AND JOAQUIN MARQUES SOLARI. DIPLOMATS OF THE FOLLOWING LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES ACCREDITED TO URUGUAY ALSO ATTENDED: ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COLOMBIA, CHILE, ECUADOR, HONDURAS, MEXICO, PARAGUAY, PERU, AND VENEZUELA.

2. THE NEWLY FORMED ACTION COMMITTEE PREPARED A DOCUMENT ON MEAT AND MEAT BY-PRODUCTS AND ONE ON DAIRY PRODUCTS WHICH WILL SERVE AS A GUIDELINE FOR FUTURE COMMITTEE ACTIVITY IF APPROVED AT THE 4TH MEETING OF SELA HELD IN APRIL 1978 IN CARACAS.

3. THE DOCUMENT ON MEAT PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES FOR THE ACTION COMMITTEE:

- PROMOTE ADEQUATE CONSUMPTION OF MEAT AND MEAT BY-PRODUCTS IN THE NATIONAL FOOD DIETS OF SELA MEMBER STATES THROUGH AN INCREASE OF REGIONAL SUPPLY
- INCREASE PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY WHILE IMPROVING THE QUALITY
- STIMULATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEAT-BASED FOOD INDUSTRY, DIVERSIFY AND PROMOTE INTER-REGIONAL TRADE
- WORK TO REDUCE OR ERADICATE DISEASES OR PLAGUES IN AFFECTED AREAS
- IMPROVE NEGOTIATING LEVERAGE AND MARKETING CAPACITY OF SELA MEMBER STATES VIS-A-VIS THIRD COUNTRIES
- GIVE LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES A PREFERENTIAL SHARE OF TRADE WHERE POSSIBLE.

4. THE COMMITTEE FURTHER AIMS TO ATTAIN AMPLE AND EFFICIENT INDUSTRIAL PROCESSING THROUGH THE EXCHANGE OF TECHNOLOGY WITH MEMBER STATES; UPDATE AND IMPROVE MEAT SLAUGHTER CAPACITY, PROCESSING, AND CONSERVATION; AND ADAPT AND PERFECT HYGENIC AND SANITARY MEASURES FOR PRODUCTS DESTINED BOTH FOR EXPORT AND DEMESTIC CONSUMPTION.

5. IN ORDER TO EXPAND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY THE ACTION COMMITTEE PROPOSES TO IMPROVE MARKETING TECHNIQUES, SECURE MEDIUM AND LONG TERM CONTRACTS, IDENTIFY AND ELIMINATE TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF RESTRICTIONS HINDERING BOTH REGIONAL AND EXTRA-REGIONAL TRADE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND PROMOTE A STANDARD AND RATIONAL APPLICATION OF CRITERIA GOVERNING COMMERCIAL AND SANITARY MATTERS WHEN THE LATTER ACT AS NON-TARIFF BARRIERS TO TRADE. FINALLY, THE COMMITTEE PLANS, AS SPELLED OUT IN THE MEAT DOCUMENT, TO SYSTEMATIZE EXISTING INFORMATION ON MARKETS, REGIONAL QUOTATIONS AND TRADE PROMOTION MECHANISMS

6. THE DOCUMENT ON DAIRY PRODUCTS WAS EQUALLY WIDE RANGING AND APPROVED PRINCIPAL GUIDELINES IDENTICAL TO THOSE OF THE MEAT DOCUMENTS PRESENTED IN PARA E. THE COMMITTEE ALSO PROPOSED ACTIONS TO COORDINATE DAIRY PRODUCT PRODUCTION; CARRY OUT JOINT WORKS, AND AVOID INTRA-REGIONAL PRODUCT DUPLICATION; UTILIZE AND DEVELOP RURAL EXTENSION SERVICES; IMPROVE TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY OF PRODUCERS BY THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND MODERNIZATION OF OPERATING METHODS. THE COMMITTEE ALSO PROPOSED A STUDY TO PROMOTE EXTENSIVE USE OF HIGH GENETIC QUALITY BREEDERS AND THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUIRED TO IMPROVE STOCK THROUGH ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION.

7. THE COMMITTEE'S PRIMARY COMMERCIAL AIR, AS REGARDS LATIN AMERICAN DAIRY PRODUCTS, THE THE CONSOLIDATION AND EXPANSION OF INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE IN ORDER TO SUBSTITUTE THIRD COUNTRY IMPORTS

WITH PRODUCTS OF SELA MEMBER STATES.

8. EMBASSY OFFICER SPOKE WITH DR. CORREA OF THE URUGUAYAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE CONCERNING THE PROBABLE RESULTS OF THE FORMATION OF THIS SELA ACTION COMMITTEE. CORREA POINTED OUT THAT THE GOALS STATED WERE VERY BROAD AND THAT THE PROCESS OF RATIFICATION WOULD PROBABLY TAKE A LONG TIME. HE NOTED THAT MOST OF THE IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE IN WHICH URUGUAY IS INTERESTED HAVE ALREADY BEEN DEALT WITH IN SOME OTHER FORUM. FOR INSTANCE URUGUAY ITSELF WAS HOST TO A REGION-WIDE TECHNICAL MEETING OF EXPERTS IN ANIMAL INDUSTRY SANITATION AT WHICH THE QUESTION OF STANDARDIZING MEAT PRODUCT SANITATION WAS DISCUSSED. HE EXPECTED THAT THIS WOULD BE ONE OF THE FIRST TECHNICAL CONSULTATIONS THAT THE SELA ACTION COMMITTEE MIGHT AGAIN TAKE UP. HE MENTIONED THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSULTATION ON PROBLEMS OF INTERNATIONAL MARKETS FOR MEAT WAS TO TAKE PLACE IN THE COMMITTEE BUT THAT (1) URUGUAY, ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND WERE ALREADY DEALING WITH THE QUESTION IN THE GATT AND (2) ARGENTINA HAD SUGGESTED IN THE SELA ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING THAT THIS ASPECT BE LEFT UNTIL SOME MAJOR QUESTION AROSE WHICH IT MIGHT CONSIDER. HAVING ATTENDED THE FORMATIVE MEETING DR. CORREA WAS NOT HOPEFUL THAT SIGNIFICANT GAINS WOULD BE ACHIEVED THROUGH THIS NEW MECHANISM WHICH HAD NOT BEEN ALREADY ATTEMPTED OR ACHIEVED AT THE SUB-REGIONAL LEVEL OR IN OTHER FORUMS. PEZZULLO

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